

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY366325
Inspection date	24/09/2008
Inspector	Tina Garner
Type of setting	Childminder

Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Description of the childminding

The childminder registered in 2007. She lives on a residential road in the West Bridgford area of Nottingham with her husband and two children. Their home is within easy walking distance of the local shops, park and schools. The family have no pets. Minded children have use the whole of the ground floor of the house, with accessible toilet facilities provided within these areas. Children sleep on the first floor. There is an enclosed rear garden which is available for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and currently offers care to four children on the early years register all attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder develops a strong sense of security for the children who attend due to the warm welcome they receive. All children are treated as individuals and have their differing needs effectively met because the childminder has a secure awareness of their stage of development, likes and interests. Careful planning provides a wide range of enjoyable activities which help children develop skills, knowledge and understanding to gain the most from their play and learning experiences. Systems are being introduced which monitor progress and achievements, although these are not yet fully in place for all children. The childminder works closely with parents, encouraging them to share their views and make suggestions for improvement to her practice. The childminder demonstrates a strong commitment to improving the provision. She has robust systems in place to monitor and evaluate her practice to ensure that any gaps in her provision are identified and further developed.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- continue to develop observational assessment to inform planning for each child's continuing development
- ensure parental written permission is requested at the time of child's admission to the provision, to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's welfare, care and safety are successfully promoted because the childminder continues to update her professional skills, procedures and care practices. Through her own self evaluations and on-going discussions with parents she is effective in identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the provision. Documentation is well organised and in the main supports the care of children effectively. However, written consent for seeking medical attention in an emergency is not in place for all children. The childminder is secure in her knowledge of safeguarding procedures. Regular risk assessments are carried out and children are closely supervised at all times. Appropriate safety measures in the home are in place and toys and equipment are maintained to a high standard. All aspects of children's care is discussed with parents and fully supportive systems are in place for the ongoing exchange of information. For example, there are care diaries, child development files, effective day to day records and discussions are held at the beginning and end of each day. As a result children's individual needs are identified and efficiently met.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children gain from stimulating activity planning which broadens their knowledge and learning, through offering them new and varied experiences. For example, planned topic work includes looking at transport and road safety. Children learn through first hand experiences as they visit the local fire station to look at the fire engines and meet the fire fighters. Activities are planned and provided taking into account children's individual needs and interests, these present children with effective levels of challenge and support them in achieving their developmental potential. The childminder has started to plan and assess children's learning to monitor children's progress. However, these are currently not always used to plan for all children's next steps in learning. Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care and they have developed warm and positive relationships. Children behave well and they learn to show care and consideration for others and their environment through gentle reminders from the childminder. For example, children are reminded not to throw toys and encouraged to pick items up. Children feel secure in their environment, they move freely between different activities and play areas and are beginning to make their own choices from the wide range of resources available. Their creativity is beginning to immerse as they have opportunities to make masks and paint pictures. They enjoy accessing books and snuggle up to the childminder to listen to a story. The childminder interacts sensitively with the children and engages them in conversations to support their language and communication skills. Through daily routines they develop their awareness of counting, such as counting the steps as they come down the stairs. Children benefit from outings and develop their understanding of the wider community through trips to the park, local library and meetings with other childminder's and the children they care for. They are encouraged to walk to and from events and benefit from other activities which promote their good health and physical development such as climbing.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	Good
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	Good
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	Outstanding

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	Good
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	Good
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	Outstanding
How well are children safeguarded?	Good

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	Good
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	Good
How well are children helped to stay safe?	Good
How well are children helped to be healthy?	Good
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	Good
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	Good
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	Good

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website:
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are: Met

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met

Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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